CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 32, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

3. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 32, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

4. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 32, the method further comprising, prior to transmitting, tagging the first message, the last message, and the any other message of the transaction with a transaction-counter identifier.

5. (Original) The medium of claim 4, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered-counter of bits.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 33, the method further comprising:

changing the transaction-counter identifier;

tagging a first message of a second transaction with the first-message identifier and the transaction-counter identifier as changed;

tagging a last message of the second transaction with the last-message identifier and the transaction-counter identifier as changed;

tagging any other message of the second transaction with the transaction-counter identifier as changed; and,

transmitting the first message, the last message, and the any other message of the second transaction.

8. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 33, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

9. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 33, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

10. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 33, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered counter of bits.

11. (Original) The medium of claim 7, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered counter of bits, and changing the transaction-counter identifier comprises incrementing the ordered counter of bits.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 34, wherein repeating receiving an additional message until the additional message received is tagged with one of the first-message identifier and a last-message identifier comprises repeating receiving the additional message until the additional message received is tagged with one of the first-message identifier, the last-message identifier and a transaction-counter identifier unequal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is tagged.

14. (Original) The medium of claim 13, wherein upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message identifier; concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received comprises upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message identifier and with a transaction-counter identifier equal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is tagged, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received only upon so determining.

15. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 34, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

16. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 34, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 35, wherein the transaction-counter identifier comprises an ordered counter of bits.

19. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 35, wherein the first-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

20. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 35, wherein the last-message identifier comprises a bit set to one when tagged and otherwise set to zero.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further initially comprising, at the sender, tagging each message of the transaction as part of the transaction.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising, at the ~~received~~receiver, determining whether each message received after the first message of the transaction is tagged as part of the transaction, until the tagged last message of the transaction has been received, and concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received only upon so determining.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The sender computer of claim 37, further comprising a processor and a computer-readable medium, such that the computer program is executed by the processor from the computer-readable medium.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The received computer of claim 39, further comprising a processor and a computer-readable medium, such that the computer program is executed by the processor from the computer-readable medium.

29-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a sender within a message transaction system within a network to perform a method comprising:

tagging a first message of a transaction with a first-message identifier;

tagging a last message of the transaction with a last-message identifier;

transmitting the first message, the last message, an any other message of the transaction; and,

wherein the any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

33. (Previously presented) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a sender within a message transaction system within a network to perform a method comprising:

tagging a first message of a transaction with a first-message identifier and a transaction-counter identifier;

tagging a last message of the transaction with a last-message identifier and the transaction-counter identifier;

tagging any other message of the transaction with the transaction-counter identifier;

transmitting the first message, the last message, and the any other message of the transaction; and,

wherein the any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

34. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a receiver within a message transaction system within a network to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first message;

determining whether the first message is tagged with a first-message identifier;

upon determining that the first message is tagged with the first-message identifier,

_____repeating receiving an additional message until the additional message received is tagged with one of the first-message identifier and a last-message identifier;

_____upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message identifier, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received;

_____otherwise concluding that an error has occurred;

otherwise concluding that an error has occurred; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

35. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a receiver within a message transaction system within a network to perform a method comprising:

receiving a first message;

determining whether the first message is tagged with a first-message identifier;

upon determining that the first message is tagged with the first-message identifier,

_____repeating receiving an additional message until the additional message received is tagged with one of the-first message identifier, a last-message identifier, and an transaction-counter identifier unequal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is tagged;

_____upon determining that the additional message is tagged with the last-message identifier and with a transaction-counter identifier equal to a transaction-counter identifier with which the first message is tagged, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received;

_____otherwise concluding that an error has occurred;

otherwise concluding that an error has occurred; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for performance within ~~an~~ a transaction message system within a network comprising:

at a sender, for a transaction comprising an ordered plurality of messages, tagging a first message of the transaction with a first-message identifier and tagging a last message of the transaction with a last-message identifier;

transmitting the messages of the transaction from the sender to a receiver;

at the receiver, determining whether the tagged first message of the transaction and the tagged last message of the transaction have been received, and upon so determining, concluding at least that a transaction having a proper first and last message has been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

37. (Previously presented) A sender computer of a message transaction system within a network comprising:

a communication device;

a computer program designed to set transactional boundaries among messages, such that a receiver computer is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received, and to transmit the messages via the communications device; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

38. (Previously presented) A sender computer of a message transaction system within a network comprising:

a communication devices;

means for setting transactional boundaries among messages, such that a receiver computer is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received, and for transmitting the message via the communications device; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

39. (Previously presented) A receiver computer of a message transaction system within a network comprising:

a communications device;

a computer program designed to receive messages via the communications device, and to determine transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the program is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

40. (Previously presented) A receiver computer of a message transaction system within a network comprising:

a communications device;

means for receiving messages via the communications device, and for determining transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the means is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a transaction have been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

41. (Previously presented) A computerized message transaction system within a network comprising:

a first computer designed to at least set transactional boundaries among messages, and to transmit the messages;

a second computer designed to at least receive the messages, and to determine the transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the second computer is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a particular transaction have been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.

42. (Previously presented) A computerized message transaction system within a network comprising:

means for setting transactional boundaries among messages, and transmitting the message;

means for receiving the messages, and for determining the transactional boundaries among the messages, such that the means is able to determine whether at least a proper first and last message of a particular transaction have been received; and,

wherein any other message of the transaction is not sequentially tagged.